

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 11-14 have been amended.

In the Office action of March 20, 2008, Claims 1 through 13 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,311,398 to Kuiper et al. in view of U.S. 4,756,605 to Okada et al. and U.S. 5,182,585 to Stoner. Claim 14 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Kuiper.

The Examiner indicated that a terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome these rejections. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, upon indication by the Examiner that claims of the present application may be allowable except for possible double patenting, a terminal disclaimer will be submitted to overcome this rejection.

By means of the present amendment, the specification has been amended to cross-reference the related applications

and Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 11-14 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice by deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 11-14 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. The Applicants, however, reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Appl. No. 10/563,841
Amdt. dated Jun. 10, 2008
Reply to Office action mailed Mar. 20, 2008

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any
overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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